make east-ward diversion of the west flowing rivers in Kerala in order to maintain diversion of the west flowing rivers in Kerala in order to maintain the ground water level and check the salinity of water in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) National Water Development Agency has prepared prefeasibility report for diverting a part of surplus waters available in Pamba and Achankovil rivers in Kerala to irrigate about one lakh hectare of land in the drought prone areas of Tamil Nadu. Indirect benefits like maintaining the ground water level and salinity control in Tamil Nadu could also accrue from this proposal.

(b) The proposal envisages the construction of one dam each of Pamba and Achankovil in Kerala. The two dams will be interlinked by a tunnel. It is proposed to transfer surplus weather to Vaippar and Vaigai basins for providing irrigation and meeting drinking water requirements in the drought prone districts of Tamil Nadu.

[*Translation*]

Opening of Post Offices and Public Telephones In Patna (Bihar)

5043. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public telephones and post offices in Patna (Bihar) at present; and

(b) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the number of public telephones and post offices there?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The number of Public Telephones in Patna (Bihar) at present is 182. At present there are 77 Post Offices in Patna of which 2 are Head Post Offices, 72 Sub Post Offices, 2 Extra Departmental Sub Post Offices and 1 Extra Departmental Branch Post Office.

(b) About 375 more Public Telephones are planned to be opened in Bihar (including Patna) during 1991-92. Opening of 3 Sub Post Offices in urban area of Patna Postal Region is also planned.

[*English*]

Marine Products Processing Units

5044. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of marine products processing units in the country and their annual output at present;

(b) the total area available in the country for acquaculture and the area being utilized, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to promote acquaculture, development of marine products processing units and also to boost the export of marine products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) As on 31.7.1991 there were 246 freezing units and 320 cold storages with an installed capacity of 2715.90 M.T. per day and 49,000 M.T. respectively. During 1990-91, 1,39,419 tonnes of marine products valued at Rs. 893.37 crore were exported.

(b) The area available for brackishwater aquaculture and the area utilised, so far, State-wise is furnished in the Statement attached.